

## **LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

This listing of the claims replaces all prior listing of claims.

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Amended) A gene encoding a ~~said~~ protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 in the sequence listing, or a ~~said~~ variation functionally equivalent thereto, or a fragment of said protein or said variation according to claim 10.

Claim 12 (Original) The gene according to Claim 11, consisting of the 126<sup>th</sup> to 1295<sup>th</sup> bases in a base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 in the sequence listing.

Claim 13 (Amended) A plasmid comprising said gene according to claim 11 or 12.

Claim 14 (Original) A transformant comprising said plasmid according to claim 13.

Claims 15-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Original) A polynucleotide capable of specifically hybridizing to an mRNA consisting of a base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 in the sequence listing.

Claims 19-27 (Canceled).

Claim 28. (New) A plasmid comprising said gene according to claim 12.